

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 03478 101354Z

43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-01 MMS-01 A-01 SP-02 /021 W

----- 116516

R 101000Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9297

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TUNIS 3478

FOR ATHERTON AND NOOTER FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: AID REGIONAL OFFICE

REF: STATE 133644

1. WHILE PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH LARGE REGIONAL AID OFFICE IN TUNISIA RUNS COUNTER TO MY SUCCESSFUL EFFORTS OVER PAST TWO YEARS TO LOWER OVERALL USG PROFILE HERE, I AM OF COURSE PREPARED TO GO ALONG WITH THIS PROPOSAL IN VIEW OF OVER-RIDING IMPORTANCE OF OUR FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES IN NEAR EAST.

2. THE ADDITIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE BURDENS PLACED UPON THE EMBASSY BY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THIS OFFICE ARE MANAGEABLE, WITH EXCEPTION THAT WE WISH TO RESERVE JUDGMENT RE ADDITIONAL COMMUNICATIONS WORKLOAD (AID/W SHOULD BE FOREWARNED THAT HOUSING IN TUNIS HAS BECOME EXTREMELY TIGHT AND EXTENDED WAITING PERIODS IN HOTELS BY NEW PERSONNEL MUST BE EXPECTED.) WE URGE THAT AID REPRESENTATIVE ASSIGNED TO HEAD REGIONAL OFFICE BE JUNIOR IN RANK TO AID TUNIS MISSION DIRECTOR, EVEN THOUGH REGIONAL OFFICE WILL BE MANAGERIALLY SEPARATE.

3. TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE NO OBJECTIONS TO
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ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL OFFICE HERE AND, INDEED, CAN

BE EXPECTED TO WELCOME IT. TUNISIANS WILL VIEW CREATION
OF THIS OFFICE AS EVIDENCE OF INCREASING USG
DISPOSITION AND CAPABILITY TO UNDERTAKE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
PROGRAMS IN ARAB WORLD AND THUS BE ENCOURAGED TO BELIEVE
THAT TUNISIA WILL BECOME A BENEFICIARY OF THIS EMPHASIS
IN FORM OF INCREASED AID.
SEELYE

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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